

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/617,032

Examiner

Sarah L. Kuhns

Applicant(s)

HIRAOKA ET AL.

Art Unit

1761

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/7/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 2 and 7.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 7-11-05
- ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Tom Cunningham on November 18, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

**Abstract:**

The present invention provides a process for treating living fish having an improved meat quality or an elongated period of tasting time, or providing internal organs having an improved quality. According to the present invention, living fish is are kept alive in an aqueous alkali solution and then washed with water or neutralized.

**At the beginning of the specification add:**

This application is a continuation of PCT/JP01/02341 filed March 23, 2001.

**Page 5, line 8:**

value is desirable. For ensuring the ~~live~~ life of the fish, the higher

**Claim 1:**

A process for obtaining internal organs or adnexa from fresh fish, comprising the sequential steps of:

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keeping living fish alive in an aqueous alkali solution at a pH of greater than 8.5 to 13.0, for a time sufficient for the alkali solution to reach the internal organs and adnexa of said living fish to sterilize or control germs in said internal organs and adnexa;

either washing said living fish with water to remove the alkali solution or neutralizing said living fish;

and removing the internal organs or adnexa from said fish,

wherein said aqueous alkali solution comprises water and at least one alkali selected from the group consisting of calcium oxide, sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, calcium hydroxide, magnesium carbonate, ammonium carbonate, sodium carbonate, potassium carbonate, calcium carbonate, sodium hydrogencarbonate and potassium hydrogencarbonate.

### ***Conclusion***


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sarah L. Kuhns whose telephone number is 571-272-1088. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 am - 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Milton Cano can be reached at 571-272-1398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SLK

  
**MILTON I. CANO**  
**SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**  
**TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700**